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Subject: Delta update

Jared -

FYI on something you might hear/read about this week - apparently the federal and state agencies that are leading the BDCP effort have negotiated some degree of understanding on BDCP operations. Some are referring to it as a "major breakthrough". We've not been part of the discussions, so I'm vague on details. When I asked David Nawi about this, this is all he was comfortable telling me -

The "breakthrough" is about the initial operations of the new conveyance structures. Up till now, the water users had been insisting on operating rules that would lead to an increased level of exports. They have now agreed on a "science-based decision-tree" process during the construction period (~15 years) that would lead to agreement on operating rules. So far as I understand, this is still ESA-focused and the Water Board has not yet been consulted.

That may not sound like much but apparently its a big enough deal that Salazar has been briefed and they are getting ready to brief the enviros, the Delta counties, and Congressional staff in DC. They currently have no plans to brief us or to share the document with us but Nawi knows we are interested. - ks

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